

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
LUBBOCK DIVISION**

NOV 29 2023 AM 11:21  
FILED - USDC - NDTX - LU  
BMJ

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

STEVEN PAUL ECHOLS

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CASE NO. 5:23-CR-036-H-BQ-1

**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION ON PLEA  
BEFORE THE UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

This case has been referred by the United States district judge to the undersigned for the taking of a guilty plea. The parties have consented to appear before a United States magistrate judge for these purposes. This Report and Recommendation on Plea is submitted to the court under 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(3).

The defendant appeared with counsel before the undersigned United States magistrate judge, who addressed the defendant personally in open court and informed the defendant of, and determined that the defendant understood, the admonitions contained in Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

The defendant pleaded guilty (under a written plea bargain agreement with the government) to *Count Four of the Superseding Indictment, charging defendant with a violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(A)(viii), that is, Possession with Intent to Distribute 50 Grams or More of Methamphetamine (Actual)*. After examining Defendant under oath the undersigned magistrate judge finds the following:

1. Defendant, upon advice of counsel, has consented orally and in writing to enter this guilty plea before a magistrate judge, subject to final approval and sentencing by the presiding district judge;

2. Defendant fully understands the nature of the charges (including each essential element of the offense(s) charged) and penalties;
3. Defendant fully understands the terms of the plea agreement and plea agreement supplement;
4. Defendant understands all constitutional and statutory rights and wishes to waive these rights, including the right to a trial by jury and the right to appear before a United States district judge;
5. Defendant's plea is made freely and voluntarily;
6. Defendant is competent to enter this plea of guilty;
7. There is a factual basis for this plea; and
8. The ends of justice are served by acceptance of the defendant's plea of guilty.

Although I have conducted these proceedings and recommend acceptance of Defendant's plea of guilty, the United States district judge has the power to review my actions and possesses final decision-making authority in this proceeding. Thus, if Defendant has any objections to these findings or any other action of the undersigned, he is required to make those known to the United States district judge within fourteen (14) days of today.

Based on the above, I recommend that Defendant's plea of guilty be accepted, that Defendant be adjudged guilty, and that sentence be imposed accordingly.

Signed November 29, 2023.



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**D. GORDON BRYANT JR.**  
**UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE**